



# TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER  
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD  
GRAFTON, MA 01519

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## Community Preservation Committee MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman, John Stephens. John reminded the committee of the remote participation meeting guidelines as the entire meeting was being held via zoom. He then took roll call.

Present were: John Stephens, Jim Gallagher, Brook Padgett, Justin Wood, Richard Whitney, and Ken Holberger. Absent: Kristen Belanger, Paul Scarlett, and Sandy Brock. Staff in attendance: Joann Duncan.

John stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a Select Board sponsored warrant article seeking a change to the committee's membership charge. He stated the Select Board is looking to change the charge to include a representative from Veterans Affairs, reducing the number of at large members from four to three. He added that Jim Gallagher a member of CPC since its inception is a veteran and a member of the newly formed Veterans Affairs. He also stated no one has ever brought a specific veteran's project to the committee before.

Ken asked what purpose it would serve the four areas of the Community Preservation Act to have someone from Veterans Affairs on the CPC. John stated he received an email from Select Board member Doreen DeFazio asking for his thoughts on this change, but he was unable to respond before the Select Board Meeting. Richard recapped for the CPC the discussion held at the Select Board Meeting regarding the warrant article.

John stated he is wondering why this is happening so last minute. Brook agreed with that and does not understand the purpose for this change. He stated he thought the Select Board was looking to remove two at large members by having a representative of Veterans Affairs and the Select Board. Justin recapped the thoughts expressed by Select Board members at their meeting, on various aspects of the warrant article.

Colleen Roy, Select Board member entered the meeting and provided the committee with information on why she brought this article forward to the Select Board. She stated she wanted to ensure there was veteran representation on the committee and since the Veterans Affairs was a newly formed committee it would be a good time to add them to CPC. She stated no veterans have approached her about this.

Brook stated it seemed a representative from the Trustees of Soldiers and Sailors Memorials would make more sense.

Colleen provided information to Richard on the term limits included in the proposed warrant article.

Jim stated there is nothing in the Veterans Affairs charge dealing with memorials. He explained the purpose of the charge is more service oriented. Ken added the committee cited in the article has nothing to do with CPC.

Brook stated projects are brought to the committee from residents, not the CPC committee members.

Joann screen shared a response received by the coalition regarding adding a member of Veteran's Affairs to the CPC.

Ken stated it seems like the residents have not asked for this change. Brook agreed with him.

Colleen stated this was not a last-minute decision as she thought of this around the end of August and beginning of September. Jim stated nothing was brought to Veterans Affairs about this. He stated he finds this ill advised at this time. He also stated the correct name of committee is Veteran's Advisory.

Brook made a motion, seconded by Ken the committee vote to recommend the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting pass over Article 23 as the article is a solution without a problem and diminishes community participation in CPC. Justin stated having someone from Veteran's Affairs is still a good thing in case there is not a current member who is a veteran. Jim stated there is nothing in that committee's charge that has anything to do with CPC. He reiterated that he found it to be illogical and Ken agreed. Motion passed 5-1 by roll call: Gallagher, aye; Wood, nay; Whitney, aye; Holberger, aye; Padgett, aye; Stephens, aye.

Joh stated he will relay this to Finance Committee at the public hearing. Justin made a motion seconded by Richard the Chairman write a letter to the Select Board documenting the committee's vote. Motion passed 6-0 by roll call: Gallagher, aye; Wood, aye; Whitney, aye; Holberger, aye; Padgett, aye; Stephens, aye.

Joann asked about the possibility of a committee member speaking at Town Meeting. Justin stated he felt since the Committee had voted to send the letter to the Select Board a committee member can speak to this vote at Town Meeting.

Jim made a motion seconded by Richard to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM. Motion passed 6-0 by roll call: Gallagher, aye; Wood, aye; Whitney, aye; Holberger, aye; Padgett, aye; Stephens, aye.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Joann Duncan

The meeting can be viewed at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI5M\\_RWHWeI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI5M_RWHWeI)